



World Christian Fellowship

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Galatians

Lesson 53 – Fruit of the Spirit

Peace

Galatians 5:22-23, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

The Spirit of God produces this fruit only if the Christian is willing to listen to His teachings and put them into practice in his or her life. This fruit is not forced upon anyone or given directly by the Spirit without the Christian doing his or her part.

It is the same as Salvation, men play a part in "saving themselves" by an obedient faith in God.

"Peace" is said to be a fruit that comes into a Christian's life as they continue in an obedient faith.

'Shalom' Hebrew word appears 250 times in Old Testament.

'Eirene' Greek word in the New Testament over 92 times.

Meaning:

- a wish for completeness;
- a wish for contentment;

- a wish for fulfillment,
- satisfaction,
- blessing;
- maybe well-being works;
- a wish for prosperity on all levels.

Peace is the opposite of discord, strife or dissension. Peace comes when there is unity and harmony. A soul in rebellion against God cannot have peace with God!

Peace can only come when there is harmony between God and man.

Philippians 4:6-7, *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

If we want this peace, we need to set our mind on proper things and do them.

Philippians 4:8-9, *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. ⁹ The*

things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

If we remain in Christ, we have the promise of this peace. The world around us is filled with deceptive teachings, temptations, errors, fears, etc.,

With Christ in our hearts, these things cannot gain an entrance. If we fill our minds with the proper things to think upon and do, they cannot gain a foothold into our mind or heart.

Peace with God

Not all peace is the peace that the Spirit of God produces in our lives.

False Prophets proclaimed peace when there was no peace. **Jeremiah 6:14**, *They have also healed the [c]hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace.*

Jesus was called the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6, *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Jesus made it very clear that He did not come to bring a false peace. He knew that His teachings would not bring peace to some homes, but a sword.

Matthew 10:34, *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.*

He was not offering peace through the compromise of truth. Jesus offered us the true Peace which comes from God.

John 14:27, *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

Christians are encouraged to live peaceably with all men.

Romans 12:18, *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

But there are some people that make it hard.

Psalms 120:7, *I am for peace; But when I speak, they are for war.*

The Gospel is called a message of peace.

Ephesians 6:15, *and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

Acts 10:36, *The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—*

The Psalmist stated that there is peace given to those who love God's Law.

Psalms 119:165, *Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble.*

Man is no longer at enmity with God, because he has made his peace with Him in his turning from his disobedience to be an obedient servant of God.

Romans 5:1, *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Peace with others

When a person has made his peace with God through his obedience to the Gospel, he is then expected to live at peace with all man.

Hebrews 12:14, *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:*

1 Thessalonians 5:13, *and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.*

Romans 12:18, *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

Ephesians 4:3, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Role as a Peace maker

The Christian is not just receiving and live in peace but pursue to be a peacemaker among men.

Matthew 5:9, Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

1 Peter 3:10-11, For “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. ¹¹ Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

Romans 14:19, Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Evidence of Peace

One of the obvious things that certainly will help us in our efforts to live peaceably with both God and man is Godly Love!

Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

Romans 13:10, *Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.*

This love is concerned for the welfare of another. He is even willing to put his own interest in a secondary place in order to keep peace. Both Abraham and Isaac had this kind of an attitude.

Genesis 13:8, *So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren.*

Genesis 26:22, *And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, “For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.”*

The Apostle admonished the church at Corinth to be willing to suffer wrong in order to keep peace among themselves.

1 Corinthians 6:7, *Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?*

Conclusion

Past:

Living in peace requires that we deal properly with time.

Paul's inspired statement about forgetting the things that are past is a necessity.

Philippians 3:13, *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,*

Sins, mistakes, wrongs in the past must be properly put behind.

The reason why we forget those mistakes or sins committed against us that because God Himself doesn't remember when we repent of them.

Hebrews 8:12, *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

Blessed is the man whose past sins have been covered.

Romans 4:7-8, *"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; ⁸Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."*

Future.

It is important that we not worry about the future.

Matthew 6:31-32, *"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.*

Present:

The only time that we really have is in the present!

We need to so live today that our future will be secure.

Matthew 6:33-34, *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

So, make each day count so that we can look back on it with pleasure.

The peace that passes all understanding and will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus!

Philippians 4:6-7,